(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Few representations were received regarding settlement of claims as a result of cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. For speedy settlement of these claims, GIC had set up an Inter Company Machinery. Press advertisements were given and special booths were set up for speedy processing and settlement of claims. As a result of these measures out of 165 claims filed by the fishermen whose boats sank into the sea, 96 claims have been settled. Out of pending 69 claims, 41 claims are under process and for remaining 28 claims, investigation/survey reports and other related documents by claimants are awaited. The matter is being continuously followed up by insurance companies.

Expenditure Management and Reform Commission

2679. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level expenditure management and reform Commission has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the highlights of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The Expenditure Management and Reforms Commission has not yet been set up.

[Translation]

Hurdles in Industrial Growth

2680. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some hurdles in the way of industrial growth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the staps proposed to be taken by the Government to remove those hurdles;

(d) the reasons for low rate of capital formation in the country;

(e) whether the Government propose to improve in capital formation for Industrial growth;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The growth rate of industrial production in 1996-97 witnessed deceleration mainly due to under performance of crude petroleum, electricity, fertilizers, consumer durables and capital goods sectors and also the high cost of capital. Some Sector specific policies had already been initiated in under performing sectors.The credit policy announced by RBI has improved availability of credit at softer terms to industry. Initiatives have also been taken in Union Budget for further improving the investment climate and for accelerated overall industrial growth.

(d) to (g) the overall Gross Domestic Capital Formation was 27.4% of Gross Domestic Product in 1995-96 as compared to 26.0% in 1994-95 and 23-6% in 1993-94. Reduction in corporate and personal income tax and incentives to investment introduced in the Union Budget is expected to further improve the capital formation in the country.

[English]

Court Cases Relating to Women

2681. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases relating to women pending in Jammu and Kashmir as on date; and

(b) the specific efforts being made by the Government for speedy disposal of pending cases and provide complete justice to women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Council of Medical Research

2682. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assessment scheme with regards to promotion for technical staff of Indian Council of Medical Research is pending with the Government (Ministry of Finance) for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) to (c) A proposal for introduction of an assessment scheme for technical staff of ICMR was considered and returned to the Administrative Ministry pending decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

Post Harvest Operation Scheme

2683. SHRI RAMAKANT YADAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to discontinue the Post harvest operation scheme under the food ministry;